(2.)

SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE

DUBLIN WEEKLY SCHOOLS,

Heretofore known by the name of

St. CATHERINE'S SUNDAY SCHOOLS,

AND THE PLAN

On which they have been and are conducted.

DUBLIN:

Printed by J. GOUGH, No. 20, Meath-ſtreet.

1798.

BRITISH MUSEUM
22 57
MAY

SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE

DUBLIN WEEKLY SCHOOLS, &c.

THE firſt eſtabliſhment of theſe Schools was in the beginning of the year 1786, under the name of St. Catherine's Sunday Schools; they were held one day in the week, that is on the Firſt day (Sunday,) and deſigned for the education of youth of both ſexes, without any diſtinction whatſoever on account of their religious opinions; and chiefly for the benefit of thoſe who were laborioufly employed during the week, and who had of courſe no other time to attend a School of this kind.

At their commencement all who applied were admitted; but their numbers increaſing too faſt, they were required to bring a note from ſome houſekeeper; notwithſtanding which, their numbers ſtill increaſed, and it was after ſome time judged neceſſary, that each perſon applying for admiſſion ſhould bring a recommendation ſigned by a Subſcriber.

Even under this reſtriction the applications became more numerous than the accommodations (altho' they were from time to time enlarged, ſo as to be capable of holding about ſix hundred Children) would admit of receiving; from which it has for ſome years paſt, been found expedient to confine the admiſſion to a ſmall number weekly.

They are ſupported by annual ſubſcriptions, and by donations in money or articles uſeful to the Schools: a report expreſſive of their ſituation, ſtate of the funds and other information is drawn up and printed once a year, for the ſatisfaction of the Subſcribers in general.

The Subſcribers are generally ſummoned to meet once a quarter, to examine into the affairs of the Schools; but during the intervals the care and management of them are referred to a Committee, who meet once a month, and adjourn as they ſee occaſion.

Book-keepers are appointed from amongſt the Governors, who receive the recommendations, admit the Scholars, and have the keeping of books provided for the purpoſe, containing an account of the Scholars names, places of abode, by whom recommended, what books they receive, when they leave the School, and other particulars reſpecting them.

One of the attending Governors at each School, makes a daily return in a book for the purpoſe, of the total number of Scholars in each claſs, likewiſe the number preſent in the morning and evening, as he receives the ſame from the Teachers; he is alſo to take notice that they and the Door-keepers attend at the appointed Hours, (which are from 8 to 11 o'Clock in the morning, and from 3 to 7 o'Clock in the evening) and if any irregularity appears, to enter it with the return, and ſuch

other remarks as he thinks neceſſary, which is laid before the Committee.

The Scholars are taught ſpelling, reading, writing and ciphering, and are provided with books, ſlates, paper, &c. they are divided into claſſes, according to their proficiency in learning, and removed from one claſs to another, as the attending Governors judge ſuitable; they are permitted to take home their ſpelling and reading books, but not their copies nor ſlates, which are taken care of by the Teachers; the ciphering Teachers have a ſufficient number of ſlates and arithmeticks under their care, for which they are accountable. The Scriptures are read in the Schools: but neither catechiſms nor books of religious controverſy are admitted.

Each claſs is under the care of one or more Teachers, who are to go to the places of abode of ſuch of their Scholars as abſent themſelves, enquire the cauſe thereof, and report to the Book-keepers as they ſee occaſion, and if they continue to be abſent without a ſufficient cauſe being aſſigned, an order is given by one of the Book-keepers for the books ſuch Scholars have received in the

School, who are then conſidered as diſmiſſed; but if they cannot be obtained. the order is returned and another given on the Recommender for their amount.

Monitors and Monitreſſes are choſen quarterly to aſſiſt the Teachers, from amongſt thoſe Scholars who are judged beſt qualified, and a Door-keeper is ſtationed at each School, to prevent unſuitable perſons from diſturbing them and the Scholars from going out without permiſſion.

It is pleaſing to obſerve the anxiety ſhewn by many of the Scholars to improve and the progreſs they in general make, when the very ſhort time they have to attend is conſidered; moſt of the Teachers now employed in the Schools have received a part and ſome of them the entire of their Education therein.

GENERAL RULES.

1ſt. All perſons ſubſcribing five Guineas or more are Governors for life, ſuch alſo are Governors who ſubſcribe at leaſt five Britiſh Shillings annually; each of whom may recommend one male and one female each week; provided that in the whole, there be not more admitted weekly, than the Committee or general meeting of the Governors ſpecify,—none are to be received except by the recommendation of a Governor, who is to be anſwerable for the books, &c. received by thoſe he recommends.

2nd. The Committee is to meet once a month, and all Governors attending at the appointed time and place, are proper members thereof, and may act, provided there be three or more preſent.

3rd. The Committee is to call general meetings of the Governors as occaſion requires, and all general meetings are to be convened, either by public advertiſement in one or more news-papers, or by individual ſummons.

4th. If it be found that any Scholars at the time of their admiſſion give a falſe account in any reſpect of themſelves, ſuch are to be diſmiſſed by the Book-keeper, and not to be re-admitted without an order from the Committee or a general meeting of the Governors; and any Scholar who has been diſmiſſed for neglect of attendance is not to be readmitted but by the recommendation of two Governors, and if again diſmiſſed for the like, or by the Committee for bad conduct, not to be readmitted but by the Committee or general meeting of the Governors: if a Scholar be refractory or remarkably diſorderly, ſuch may be ſuſpended by an attending Governor, until the ſame be reported to the Committee, who are to act as they think moſt ſuitable.

5th. The Maſters to be paid 2s. 6d. the Miſtreſſes 2s. and the Monitors and Monitreſſes 1s. per week each; and neither Teachers nor Door-keepers to be employed or diſmiſſed but by the Committee or general meeting of the Governors.

6th. A Treaſurer, Secretary, Paymaſter of the Teachers, and two Book-keepers to be appoint annually by a general meeting.

7th. The Treaſurer is not to pay any money on account of the Inſtitution, without an order from the Committee, ſigned by three Governors by direction thereof, his accounts to be examined at leaſt once in the year, and a general meeting of the Governors to be ſummoned for that purpoſe.

8th. No alteration in the General Rules, nor new one to be adopted, unleſs with the the approbation of two general meetings, to be leaſt one month aſunder, and the notice for the latter muſt expreſs the purpoſe of ſuch meeting.

It may not be improper to remark, that altho' the progreſs made by the Scholars in general, has afforded conſiderable ſatisfaction to thoſe Subſcribers who uſually attend the Schools, they have notwithſtanding to believe that this progreſs is much impeded, by their preſent ſituation, that for the males being held in the Court-houſe, and that for the females in the Parochial School-houſe in Thomas-court; thus the attention of the Viſitors is rendered of leſs effect; this inconvenience is further encreaſed by theſe houſes being divided into ſeveral apartments.

The utility, it may be ſaid the neceſſity, of affording the means of education to a riſing generation who preſs after it with avidity, has particularly occupied the attention of thoſe, who in this Inſtitution have had opportunity of obſerving its beneficial effects; ſome of whom have now for ſeveral years purſued a taſk rendered painfully laborious by their already mentioned ſituation and attendant circumſtances; but encouraged to perſevere by the ſucceſs of their endeavours, and the animating hope that they might at ſome future period be relieved from theſe inconveniencies.

At length they have the pleaſing proſpect, of obtaining the ſo long deſired Accommodations

in the DUBLIN FREE SCHOOL HOUSE now erecting, which will be capable of containing about fifteen hundred Scholars, and where, by the diſpoſition of the apartments, nearly the whole of each School can be under the immediate obſervation of one Viſitor, the care of ſuperintendance, will in conſequence, be rendered comparatively ſmall, with an effect more conſiderably beneficial.

Under theſe favourable appearances, the acting Governors have thought it incumbent on them, to give the Subſcribers and Public in general a more particular account of their plan and proceedure than has hitherto been laid before them.

And as it has been found that the name this Inſtitution has hitherto been known by, (i. e. St. Catherine's Sunday Schools,) has led many to imagine that it's utility has been confined to Chiildren reſiding in that Pariſh only, it has therefore been thought neceſſary to alter the name to that of, the DUBLIN WEEKLY SCHOOLS, as they are open to all thoſe whoſe ſituation will admit of their attendance.

Signed by Order of a General Meeting, held the 11th of 11th Month, 1798.

JONATHAN GREENWOOD Sec.

22 57 MAY